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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Comment on the Purcell Panel Report

1. The CGS has reviewed the Purcell Panel report and considers the report to be very useful but deficient in some respects as noted below. On the positive side, we agree with the Panel's conclusion that our best course for the future is toward the continued improvement of the KH-4 camera in both the CORONA "M" and "J" systems. If, as suggested, the "M" system can be brought to 90% or better of top quality photography, and if image intensification is incorporated, the important intelligence requirement for wide swath search could be met, without designing a new system.

2. Although, according to Mr. Lundahl, the problem of multi-sensor usage was discussed in some detail by the Panel, the report contains no reference to this discussion. The paragraph on night photography, for which an IR sensor might have some advantages, treats only the possibilities of modified "M", [REDACTED] and "L" systems.

3. We feel that the report does not treat fully the capabilities and limitations of the [REDACTED] and "L" systems. Undoubtedly these systems are providing valuable R&D data for future systems aimed at better resolution. However, the report did not consider the problems of targeting (and possible solutions) which may be particularly critical in the case of [REDACTED]. We would not like to see either the [REDACTED] or "L" systems over-sold at this stage - at least not until we can be satisfied that these systems can look at something we want to see.

4. Although paragraph 9 of the report considers the need for a quick reaction capability, it does not treat the possible use of electronic near real time read-out systems for this purpose. Paragraph

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8, which points at the limitations of these systems, does not mention the targeting problems which appear to be associated with them. It is our understanding that because of band-width limitations, present equipment allows for read-out of only a small percentage of the take from any one pass over the USSR. This raises the question, unanswered in the report, as to whether or not control mechanisms are capable of selecting for read-out only those targets of interest. We believe that there is a valid mission for electronic read-out that should not be dismissed as lightly as is indicated in the report.

5. Finally, we would urge that the DDI/CGS have a seat at the next meeting of this kind, if only to observe and provide an input as to our interests. Perhaps the next report could then be responsive to problems related to intelligence in addition to those concerned with R&D. We realize that the Panel had only a short time at its disposal on this particular exercise and for this reason could not deal with some of the problems in as much detail as might have been desirable.

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Chief
Collection Guidance Staff, DDI

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CGS/Recce: (25 July 1963)

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